



February 25, 2015

Testimony of Roy Merritt, Jr., P.E.  
On behalf of the  
**The Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Section  
of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)**

Before the Transportation Committee

Regarding

- **H.J. No. 62** – Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to Require Certain Moneys to be Deposited in The Special Transportation Fund and to Limit the Use of Moneys in Said Fund
- **H.J. No. 63** – Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to Protect Transportation Funds
- **S.B. No. 937** – An Act Requiring All Moneys Directed to The Special Transportation Fund to be Deposited in Said Fund, and All Expenditures From Said Fund to be For Transportation Purposes
- **H.B. No. 6857** – An Act Protecting Transportation Funds
- **S.J. No. 10** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 11** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 12** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 13** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Toll Proceeds Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 14** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Prospectively Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 15** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 16** – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **S.J. No. 17** - Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **H.J. No. 8** - Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **H.J. No. 9** - Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund
- **H.J. No. 10** - Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund

- *H.J. No. 14 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Limiting the Use of Moneys Contained in the Special Transportation Fund*
- *H.J. No. 16 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution Regarding the Special Transportation Fund*
- *Proposed H.B. No. 5384 – An Act Concerning a Permanent Lock on the Special Transportation Fund*
- *Proposed H.B. No. 5927 – An Act Prohibiting Transfers from the Special Transportation Fund*
- *Proposed H.B. No. 5935 – An Act Limiting the Use of the Special Transportation Fund*
- *Proposed H.B. No. 6337 – An Act Limiting the Use of the Motor Vehicles Fuel Tax and the Gross Earnings Tax to Transportation Purposes*
- *Proposed H.B. No. 6351 – An Act Limiting the Use of Funds in the Special Transportation Fund*

I am Roy Merritt, Jr., and I am a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Connecticut. I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers<sup>1</sup> (ASCE), where I serve as Chairman of their Legislative Affairs Committee. CSCE submits this testimony in **support of establishing a “lock-box” on moneys in the Special Transportation Fund** to ensure that revenue collected for the purpose of maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure is fully dedicated to transportation purposes only. Funds collected through the motor vehicle fuels tax and the gross earnings tax cannot be allowed to transfer into the General Fund, or be “raided” by other interests as has occurred frequently in the past. **CSCE’s recommendation is to establish a constitutional amendment to prohibit transfer of moneys from the Special Transportation Fund.** Such a constitutional amendment offers the greatest level of protection against the potential of future “raiding” of transportation revenues for other uses.

As Governor Malloy emphasized recently in his budget address, Connecticut is facing extreme challenges in maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure. According to the Governor’s report *“Connecticut’s Bold Vision for a Transportation Future”*, over \$100 Billion in capital improvements are needed over the next 30 years to provide our citizens with a “best-in-class” transportation infrastructure. Our state cannot begin to achieve this goal while continuing the past practice of having moneys from the Special Transportation Fund being regularly diverted into the General Fund for other purposes. The State must first establish a “lock-box” to protect revenue in the Special Transportation Fund, and then secondly find amenable solutions for increasing revenue to better maintain and improve our aging transportation infrastructure.

There are over 20 bills currently before the Transportation Committee regarding establishing a “lock-box” on the Special Transportation Fund. It is obvious by the amount of legislation drafted on this topic this session that many members of the General Assembly recognize the looming challenges of funding our transportation infrastructure needs, and the necessity of protecting transportation revenue. **CSCE supports bills which establish an amendment to the State Constitution prohibiting the transfer of moneys from the Special Transportation Fund for purposes other than transportation.** Connecticut’s future transportation infrastructure needs cannot be met while continuing the past practice of regularly transferring moneys from the Special Transportation Fund to the General Fund to use on non-transportation items.

The Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers looks forward to working with the Connecticut Legislature on this most important issue.

Thank you,

Roy Merritt, Jr., P.E.  
Chairman, Legislative Affairs Committee  
**Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section  
of the American Society of Civil Engineers**

<sup>1</sup> ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the oldest national civil engineering organization. It represents over 145,000 civil engineers (1,650 in Connecticut) in private practice, government, industry and academia who are dedicated to the advancement of the science and the profession of civil engineering. ASCE is a non-profit educational and professional society organized under Part 1.501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CSCE is a 100% volunteer organization.